

# Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

June 27, 2013

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## Keeping Our Customers Safe

by Dave Nichols

We’ve all experienced driving down the highway to a meeting or the job site, and seeing someone stopped along the side of the road. As we drive by we wonder -- Is their vehicle broken down? Are they sick? Do they have a cell phone to call for help? Although we may wonder what’s going on, most of the time we probably just drive by because we’re in a hurry and we have work to do.

As employees of MoDOT, we are public servants and stewards of our transportation system. What we should do in this scenario is ask ourselves, “What can I do to help?” No matter what the situation, there is probably something you can do to be a good Samaritan. Keeping our customers safe is part of our safety commitment, and everyone’s responsibility.

Of course, you must keep safe and not take risks. If you see someone who appears to need assistance, take precautions for your own safety.

- Assess the situation to determine if you can safely help. Is there a safe place for you to turn around or pull over?
- If you are afraid of the situation or not comfortable, call \*55 and relay what you are seeing and your location. Trust your instincts. If something doesn’t feel right, make the call.
- If the situation appears safe, pull over, turn on your lights and wear your PPE. If it is an emergency where time is of the essence, at a minimum wear a vest so you are visible.
- Be sure to tell the person(s) your name and that you work for MoDOT.
- Ask if they need help, and if so, ask them specifically what you can do.
- Ask if they have a cell phone and can make a call, or if you need to call for them.
- If the location is a busy urban interstate, call Motorist Assist. They are properly trained and equipped to help. Don't be deterred from calling because you don't want to make more work for another MoDOT employee. It's our job to keep our customers safe.
- Of course, if the person is unconscious or unable to relay information, call 911 immediately.



Our Customers Are Safe

Whatever the situation, always keep yourself safe by using good judgment. Thank you for doing everything you can to help keep our customers safe.

## MU Civil Engineering Department’s First African-American Graduate Has Ties to MoDOT

By Tammy Wallace

You don’t have to talk with Clarence Mabin very long to realize he’s led a successful and interesting life, and is very grateful to those individuals who helped him get there. Mabin, a 1961 graduate of the University of Missouri, was MU’s first African-American civil engineering graduate.

“It was a long time ago, and things were different in those days,” said Mabin. “I was very ambitious and had many people who supported me along the way.”

*Mizzou Engineer* magazine recently ran a feature article on the alumnus detailing his story from the early years of working as a railroad dining car waiter and how that job unexpectedly led him to a career in engineering, to his struggles to gain his education, and ultimately to owning an award-winning engineering company.

MoDOT Director Dave Nichols, an MU civil engineering grad himself, read the article, and it struck a chord with him. Admiring Mabin’s ambition and perseverance, he wanted to share the story with MoDOT employees.



**Clarence Mabin, civil engineer and successful minority-business owner, spent one summer working for MoDOT.**  
Photo by Michele Compton

“It’s just an amazing success story,” said Nichols, who, like Mabin, grew up in St. Joseph. “It’s the kind of story that can motivate and uplift people, and definitely one worth sharing.”

It was in the early days, when Mabin was a student at Mizzou and working as a waiter in the summer months at the St. Joseph Country Club, when he met one of the people who would help him on his journey. Henry “Hank” Bradley, the publisher of the St. Joe newspaper, was a frequent patron of the club, and a member of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (1958-65).

One evening Mabin was explaining to Mr. Bradley that he was an engineering student and had unsuccessfully tried getting a summer job at MoDOT. Bradley’s wife asked her husband if there wasn’t something he could do to help.

“I don’t know exactly how it happened,” said Mabin, “but the next week I received a letter from MoDOT asking that I come in and fill out an application, and that was it. Mr. Bradley helped me get that job.”

That summer Mabin worked at the St. Joseph district office gaining more knowledge in drafting and design before continuing his education at Mizzou.

After receiving his degree, he worked on the bridge design team at the Nebraska Department of Roads and held several other positions with various companies before purchasing Custom Engineering, Inc. in Kansas City. He is now semi-retired as president of the company.

You can read the complete *Mizzou Engineer* article online to learn more about Clarence Mabin and his inspiring story – [Clarence Mabin](#).

## Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! I hope you’re making plans for a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July. When I think of America’s Independence Day, first I think fireworks...which I love! Then I think of our armed forces who fought for independence and to keep us free. They and their families made a lot of sacrifices, and we should never take that for granted. Finally, I think about all the different cultures that have come together to make us great. That’s something that holds true for MoDOT.



**Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker discuss speaks to the attendees as this year’s diversity conference.**

The diverse workforce we enjoy now is the result of thousands of employees who came before us. It wasn’t that many years ago that our senior management team had no women or persons of color. Now, half of our division and district leaders are women. We have few minorities on the senior management team, but we’re working to build on that diversity going forward.

We recognize diversity extends beyond gender and ethnicity. We all bring different backgrounds and talents to work each day. It’s where we grew up, the size of our family, our religion and education; whether we’re right brain or left brain, what generation we belong to...it is a thousand ways that we are different from and the same as our coworkers. And it’s what makes us strong and resilient and interesting and creative. Our challenge is to recognize and use the differences to make us a better team. I think of it like the patchwork quilt on grandma’s bed. Yeah, a plain old blanket would do the trick. But the beautiful quilt adds life and color and interest, and sometimes by studying the pattern, we see something entirely different.

One of the diversity and inclusion efforts we are excited about is a special mentoring program. In January 2012, the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division paired a group of women and minority employees with senior leaders as mentors. The mentoring sessions focused on helping those employees draw on the experience of senior leaders to be more successful in their current jobs and prepare them for leadership positions in the future.

I’ve heard great things from both the mentors and those being mentored. MoDOT is a complex organization, and those being mentored said they appreciate the help a senior leader can give on how to navigate it successfully. My fellow senior leaders say the mentoring sessions have given them a fresh perspective on employee issues. It’s a win-win for MoDOT.

The mentoring program is open to all full-time employees. You can sign up to be a mentor or be mentored at the mentoring homepage at <http://sharepoint/facilitation/EOD/mentor/SitePages/Home.aspx> (link works for active employees only).

Celebrate our independence and our differences!

# LRAD 100xi May Alert Motorists, Save Lives

by Steve Porter

The gray contraption on the tripod in back of the MoDOT truck looked like an oversize satellite dish, but it wasn’t a receiver. It was sending a message, loud – in fact, VERY LOUD – and clear:

“Caution: Slow moving vehicles ahead. Move over!” it blared. And the drivers of various MoDOT dump trucks, a motorcycle, semis and cars approaching from more than 1,000 yards away were hearing the message clearly in plenty of time to look up, slow down and avoid colliding with the people or equipment in the work zone ahead.

The LRAD 1000xi, or Long-Range Acoustic Device, puts out up to 153 decibels of sound through an emitter, not a loud speaker. The sound easily penetrates the windshield and well-insulated cab of a car, even overriding the vehicle’s engine sounds and a radio turned up loud enough to jam to tunes at highway speeds.

And that’s just what MoDOT engineers and maintenance workers want. Yet another way to get the attention of motorists coming up rapidly behind MoDOT workers and equipment in work zones.

State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright, said the loud device may become yet one more safety tool to help reduce work zone collisions. Several MoDOT workers have been involved in rear-end collisions where motorists slammed into the back of truck-mounted attenuators, and MoDOT took steps in the past year to reduce those incidents.

“We put a team together after several TMAs were hit last summer,” Wright said. “MoDOT added lighting on the top and sides of the trucks and TMAs, and saw a reduction, but still experienced TMA hits. The team members were convinced that merely dealing with improved visual warning wouldn’t be enough.”



Maintenance Supervisor Corey Hansen checks the LRAD system prior to testing on June 21. Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Shawn Stuetzger and Maintenance Supervisor Chris Sholl stand by to begin the demonstration.



The LRAD 1000xi, seen on the back of the MoDOT truck, can alert motorists approaching MoDOT work zones with the warning “Caution: Slow moving vehicles ahead. Move over!”

Cory Hansen and Dennis Pence researched the issue and suggested bringing LRAD Corporation out of San Diego to demonstrate their product.

Jeff Palmer, director of business development for LRAD Corporation, said their product was developed after the military came to them following the suicide attack on the U.S.S. Cole at the port of Adan in Yemen in 2000. The Navy sought a way to hail approaching vessels and warn them far enough away that sailors could take defensive action before they were, themselves, within danger’s range.

MoDOT is the first transportation department to test LRAD’s product for traffic safety, Palmer said. As he demonstrated the device in the Truman Sports Complex parking lot in Kansas City, the vibrating tone and voice messages coming across more than 1,000 yards were clear for the most part, even through a whipping crosswind.

“When you hear that, you do pay attention,” Wright said inside the normally quiet cab of her vehicle. “The intent is for a driver to hear it, to capture their attention, not startle.” Getting a distracted driver to look up may save their life, and those working in the highway in front of them, she said.

The next step will be to test the device in the field, both in urban and rural environments. It may create issues with nearby homes and businesses, or it may be most effective in rural areas where driver attention isn’t always focused and the worst accidents can occur. The roughly \$25,000 cost also is a factor that will be evaluated.

“We need the right tool for the right place,” Wright said. “I believe it holds promise because it’s not extremely loud over distances.”

The St. Louis District also is testing an alternate audible alert method. Both processes will be evaluated through the remainder of the summer to determine the impact on our employees and our customers.

## What's Happening



### Chat With the Chief

Check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's new blog post and video where he talks about the importance of safety and how to keep it at the top our priority list. <http://sharepoint/support/CR/chatwiththechief/default.aspx> (link works for active employees only).



### Latest Safety Jackpot Winner from Kansas City District

As the Safety Jackpot program transitions to Safety Begins with Me Awards, one of the final winners this week took the prize. Congratulations to Kansas City District Senior Maintenance Worker Chris West who won \$625 June 17, 2013. West works at the Odessa Maintenance Facility.



### New Member of MPERS Board of Trustees

During a special election, active MoDOT employees recently elected Todd Tyler to the MPERS Board of Trustees. He will finish the term vacated by Sue Feltrop when she retired April 1. His term ends June 30, 2014.

Todd has been with MoDOT since August 1996. He is a senior financial Service specialist in the Southwest district. He currently serves as president of the Southwest Chapter of the Transportation Employees Association of Missouri.



### Win a MoDOT Centennial T-shirt!

Congratulations to Devon Christensen in Central Office Information Services and Joe Alderson in CO-Bridge for earning MoDOT Centennial T-shirts by knowing Henry Ford's groundbreaking assembly line process turned out Model Ts in 1913.

Enter online here: [Quiz](#) or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Fri., July 5 for a shot at the next t-shirt give away (link works for active employees only).

### We'll head way back for this issue's question:

Roads existed before the Missouri Highway Department was formed. In 1808, \_\_\_\_\_, from St. Louis to southeast Missouri, became the first legally designated road west of the Mississippi River.

- The King's Highway
- Mississippi River Road
- Bootheel Boulevard
- Smoother, Safer, Sooner Street

### June Retirements

Stephen Wommack - NE - 37  
Jerry Wathen - KC - 5

Brenda Aholt - CD - 12  
Emery Reese - CD - 22

Michael Copley - CO - 29  
William Haselhorst - CO - 18



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## Kudos for Teamwork

The holiday weekend middle-of-the-night train-to-train collision that caused a bridge collapse in south Missouri was not something anyone would think could happen. But it's good to know that if it does, MoDOT staff will rise to the challenge.

Many employees, mainly from the Southeast District, responded to the incident. In a letter to Michelle Teel, multimodal operations director, and Eric Curtit, administrator of railroads, the Federal Railroad Administration specifically cites the professionalism of MoDOT's Bridge Division and three senior railroad safety inspectors, stating their efforts made the investigation more effective and efficient.



Train-to-train collision caused the highway bridge collapse near Chaffee in Southern Missouri.

Company, Scott County Emergency Management, and other parties about their efforts during the investigation. Without your staff's efforts, we do not believe the investigation would have been as effective and efficient.

Thank you, again, for the Missouri Department of Transportation's participation in the investigation.

Sincerely,  
Steven J. Fender  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration

*On behalf of the Federal Railroad Administration I'd like to thank you for your teamwork and support investigating the train-to-train collision and subsequent highway bridge collapse near Chaffee, Missouri. The accident occurred at approximately 2:30 a.m., on Saturday, May 25, 2013 (Memorial Day weekend). Your staff responded to the scene in an expeditious fashion and provided valuable support to the total investigative effort. Cory Reynolds, Joe Liar, Matt Talken, and the MoDOT Bridge staff were invaluable assets during the investigation.*

*We appreciate your staff's professionalism during the investigation. My Deputy Regional Administrator Gabe Neal was on scene during the investigation and witnesses your staff's dedication to railroad safety firsthand. He also received positive comments from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), BNSF Railway, Union Pacific Railroad*

## Increasing Commercial Driver Seat Belt Use

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Like most of us, commercial motor vehicle drivers are required to use seat belts. For truck drivers, though, the law is primary, meaning a driver can be pulled over simply to address a seat belt infraction.

Because the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and MoDOT track motor carrier safety citations, CMV drivers who incur safety violations invite closer state and federal scrutiny of their company's safety practices. For most, knowing this is incentive enough to buckle up. But in the most recent survey, 2 out of every 10 truck drivers observed were unbelted.

Knowing this, MoDOT Motor Carrier Services set out to improve the buckle-up rate. But how?



By recognizing carriers whose drivers make it click and by letting those whose drivers get citations know that MCS noticed and is concerned.

When members of MCS' senior staff visit motor carrier companies, they always mention seat belts. They know the company's buckle up record before they arrive and express appreciation or concern, depending on the circumstances.

But with thousands of customers, MCS can't visit everyone. Every month, a batch of letters leaves MoDOT on the way to the companies whose driver(s) recently received seat belt violations during a roadside inspection. The letters are friendly and express concern. They also spell out

the safety disadvantages unbuckled drivers experience in a crash. Here's an excerpt from a typical letter:

*We looked at safety data and discovered your drivers received seat belt violations...This fact concerns us for several reasons. First, like you, we hope that your employees make the best use of every safety tool available, so they can continue to provide for their families and help continue your company's success.*

*Second, commercial motor vehicles are big. Their size puts passenger vehicle occupants at a disadvantage in a crash. Should an emergency occur, a seat belt can help a driver remain in a position to steer clear of a secondary collision.*

*Third, CMVs often crash into other CMVs. If that happens, the safest place for your driver is his or her seat. A seat belt can keep them from being thrown to the floorboard or ejected through the glass.*

The result? Company owners and safety officers call and write to thank MCS for bringing the issue to their attention. The letters have prompted some carriers to dismiss drivers who receive multiple violations, citing insurance costs, liability and the increased safety scrutiny a simple-to-avoid violation brings on a company.

## MoDOT Employee Featured in News Tribune

Bill Stone, MoDOT's research administrator for construction and materials, was recently featured in the Jefferson City News Tribune. Here is Bill's story courtesy of the Tribune, article and photo by Kris Hilgedick.

Bill Stone is in the new ideas business.

As a 29-year employee of the Missouri Department of Transportation, Stone helps identify and coordinate the department's research activities. Stone is a research administrator for the Construction, Materials and Research Division.

One of those new experimental projects is a high-friction surface treatment engineers hope will help cars, trucks and other vehicles better negotiate tight curves. The first test of the treatment will be on U.S. 54 in Jefferson City at a sharp curve near the Madison Street exit where numerous tractor-trailers have scattered their cargo.

Stone's team, in the past, has studied the way that guard cables work to catch cars and keep them on the road. And recently they approved a project to allow a contract to use recycled concrete — from a former airport runway — to build a new approach to a Mississippi River bridge. Using a recycled product makes up for the lack of quarries in the St. Louis area and keeps an unsightly mound of broken concrete from despoiling the view. The group also is interested in finding ways to use powdery fly ash, an electrical plant byproduct, to replace concrete.

"MoDOT is interested in things that can save money, that allows us to do our jobs better and that provides safety to the traveling public," Stone said.

Stone first came to MoDOT in 1984, after graduating with a bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 1984. He spent four years as a bridge designer and another eight as a bridge inspector.



**Bill Stone, research administrator for construction and materials, was recently featured in the Tribune.**

As inspector, Stone traveled all over the state and worked outdoors in all kinds of weather. He and his team often donned wetsuits to inspect the columns submerged beneath Missouri’s murky streams. Often sedimentation was so thick in the waters “you had to feel your way around the columns,” he noted.

It was fun “for a while,” he said. “I needed to branch out into other areas.”

Eventually Stone’s interest in exploring new areas of road engineering led him to other jobs at MoDOT. Over the years, he’s worked in the department’s accident statistics section, the oversize truck permitting program and the planning division.

“I was always one who liked to build things. And tear things apart,” he said.

The Tribune article can be found online - [Bill Stone](#).

## What's Happening at Central Office



### Big Move

A very large piece of equipment, called a shear, was moved this week from the former sign shop to 830 MoDOT Drive.

The shear will be used to cut 1/4" flat steel to use in fabrication of repairs to truck beds, equipment guards, brush hog repairs, etc. The Bridge Division will also benefit from the machine to make cinder bed chain slats and shim plates for bridge work.

It took several employees, a large crane and heavy-duty trailer to move the shear to its new home.

### Conference Rooms Update

#### Creek Trail Facility

- I-44 and I-35 conference rooms are no longer available for scheduling.

#### 830 MoDOT Drive Facility

- The Gold conference room (formerly the CADD training room) is available for scheduling through the Lotus Notes calendar.
  - Seating capacity is currently 26. When additional tables and chairs can be added the capacity will increase.
  - Phone service is available; video conferencing will be available in the future.



### CPR Training

More CPR training is being offered.

Location: HRED Training Room B, 601 W. Main, Jefferson City

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Wed., August 7    | 12 - 4 p.m. |
| Thurs., August 15 | 12 - 4 p.m. |
| Wed., August 21   | 12 - 4 p.m. |

To enroll contact [Danielle.Thomas@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Danielle.Thomas@modot.mo.gov).

### Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT  
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573.751.2840 / [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org)

### Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at [Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov).

### Mission

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## Northwest District Wins Press Award

MoDOT’s Northwest District recently received the Craig Watkins Friend of Northwest Press Award. The award was given to the district for its efforts during the flood of 2011 by the Northwest Missouri Press Association at their 123rd annual meeting. More than 30 area newspapers voted on three awards given to local organizations or individuals. District Engineer Don Wichern accepted the award which is given in recognition of exemplary support of the publishers and editors of northwest Missouri.

The Craig Watkins Friend of Northwest Press Award has been given to area organizations since 1995. Some of the other recipients have included Sprint, St. Joseph Light & Power, Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Kansas City Power & Light, Missouri Western State University and many others. This is the first time the Northwest District has received an award from the association.

MoDOT’s efforts during the flood to assist the media included such things as a hard hat tour where many media representatives from Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska toured the flooded areas on U.S. Highway136 where crews were beginning repair work close to Rock Port. Members of the media were invited to take photos and video and speak to MoDOT experts. A web page was also created with daily updates on flooded routes, an online live camera showing progress as crews filled the largest holes, one nicknamed “The Beast,” and videos of crews working on the emergency repairs were also frequently put out on YouTube – one even getting almost 1,600 views.



One area of flood damage on U.S. Hwy 136 was nicknamed “The Beast.” It was 480 feet wide and 65 feet deep. There were three other scour holes along U.S. Hwy 136, which closed on June 18, 2011. Contractors were able to repair and reopen the road October 25, 2011 at a cost of \$6.5 million.



In September of 2011, media from three states participated in a tour of flooded areas in Northwest Missouri. District Engineer Don Wichern spoke with the media at a local restaurant in Rock Port, Mo. before heading out to visit areas impacted by the historic flooding.

## Public Meetings Draw Crowds

The Northwest District has been On The Move quite a bit lately. Design and Right of Way personnel met with residents in Buchanan and Andrew counties regarding two bridge projects, and Area Engineer Mike Rinehart spoke with Worth County residents about several planned projects, including a highly anticipated minor route scratch and chip. The On The Move mobile tour was also part of these meetings. Ambassadors were able to gather surveys from the Buchanan and Andrew meetings and Rinehart gave a presentation to the Worth County residents that prompted a great dialogue and shed light on our funding stream.







Local residents poured over plan documents with District Engineer Don Wichern, Project Manager Wes Moore, Maintenance Supervisor Rod Moore and Transportation Project Designer Greg Anderson at the public meeting in Buchanan County to discuss a bridge replacement on U.S. Hwy 59 south of St. Joseph.

Transportation Planning Manager Shannon Kusilek spoke with people at the public meeting in Buchanan County, including a couple of local residents who remember when the current bridge was built in 1936. The gentleman second from the right in the picture recalls his father hauling dirt during the bridge construction using two mules and a slip.



Residents of Rosendale, Mo. gathered to discuss the replacement of a bridge leading to the town. The original bridge, built in 1929, is only 20 feet wide and has no shoulders. The new bridge will be 28 feet wide and will have 2-foot shoulders.



Transportation Project Designer Russ O'Daniell and Project Manager Wes Moore examined plan documents with residents of Rosendale to show how the bridge construction would affect their property and flood-prone areas.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Ueligger, Grant City Times-Tribune  
Area Engineer Mike Rinehart was able to bring good news to the residents at the Worth County Public Meeting - Route F is scheduled for a scratch and chip next construction season.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Ueligger, Grant City Times-Tribune  
Several residents and two reporters attended the Worth County public meeting to learn about upcoming projects and voice their opinions about our long-range transportation plan.

## Traffic Training Held in Northwest District

The Northwest District Maintenance and Traffic Department hosted a Traffic Signal Principles course in the district's Conference Center on June 20. Employees from the Northwest and Kansas City districts attended the training, which was aimed at a better understanding of the signal process as well as getting everyone speaking the same language. Senior Traffic Studies Specialists Jose' Rodriguez and Joseph Turner led the group in a hands-on training. Attendees were able to practice programming signal controllers, based on different scenarios given to them by their trainers. Different types of traffic signal coordination were also discussed.



Students in the class were given signal scenarios and practiced programming signal

Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Joseph Turner explains one of the signal scenarios the class was asked to program.

controllers as part of the training.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at [Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov).

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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## Northeast District

### Soaring to New Heights!

Steve Dickson, Joe McNeill, Kim Trainor, Toshia Drebes, Shawn Parrish and Tanya Carlisle were soaring to new heights! They had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Mississippi River Bridge project with MoDOT St. Louis Inspector Henry Woods.

"This was a very physical tour, because we had to climb more than 400 feet of ladder to get to the very top of the new tower," Steve Dickson, district land survey manager, said. "It was intense. The air was stagnant inside the tower and part of the ladder was wooden," he added.

"I was filled with exhilaration (and a significant amount of exhaustion) that we accomplished the 425 foot ladder climb to the top of the tower on the Missouri side," stated Toshia Drebes, senior highway designer. "It was a breathtaking view of an amazing engineering feat," she noted. "This is something very few will have the privilege of experiencing, and I am so thankful that this once in a lifetime opportunity was extended to me because of my role at MoDOT. I LOVE MY JOB," she added.



Members of the Northeast design and survey team stand on the new Mississippi River Bridge in St. Louis during a tour.

### The Great Race

Go back in time and imagine you were taking a trip from St. Paul, Minnesota to Mobile, Alabama driving this old car without a road map or GPS, and all you were given to make the trip was a list of instructions such as..."Leave St. Paul going 50 mph. When you get to the big red barn with the white house that says 'Smith' on the mailbox, turn left, then go





On June 24, participants in the Great Race made a stop in downtown Hannibal. Shown above is one of the cars that is traveling in the race. Over 1000 people in Hannibal came out to view the vintage cars in the race.

40 mph to the 4-way stop, wait 15 seconds then proceed..."

The Great Race National Event brought 89 vintage automobiles and almost 1000 spectators to Hannibal on the evening of Monday, June 24. The Race is an automotive competition based on precision driving and navigational skills in classic, antique and vintage automobiles. The event is a timed, controlled-speed, endurance rally - not a top-speed race. Each vehicle has a driver and navigator that must follow a prescribed common route, while attempting to maintain assigned average speeds and follow exact instructions.

## Around the District...



Tom Batenhorst, district planning manager, and Chris Knapp, transportation project manager, presented On The Move information during the Great Race festivities in downtown Hannibal on June 24.



Elena Nemes, outreach coordinator, and Tana Akright, senior customer relations specialist (not pictured), were on hand at the Great Race event to hand out roadway safety information to attendees.



MoDOT Inspector Tom Owens checks on one of the two roundabouts that have been poured on the South Lincoln Drive project. Another roundabout will be poured close to the end of the project, which is expected to be completed this fall.



A public meeting was held on June 25 for the MO 79 improvement project that will be starting within the next couple of weeks. Paula Gough, district engineer, gave two formal presentations during the meeting. Other MoDOT staff and contractor staff were on hand to talk to approximately 100 people. The project was awarded to Chester Bross Construction Co., Inc. of Hannibal at a cost of \$4,418,953.81 and will include 5-inch concrete mainline lanes, improved shoulders and railroad crossing, and designated bike lanes.

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## Clifton Scott Honored With Neighborhood Street Sign

by Gina Myles



A motorcade of Motorist Assist Vehicles lined the street during the signing ceremony. Several of Scott's co-workers spoke at the event.



Among family and friends, local law officials and representatives from Kansas City shared thoughts and memories on Scott's service with Motorist Assist.

Clifton Scott, fallen MoDOT worker, was remembered at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 22, by neighbors, friends, family, emergency responders and MoDOT employees during a moving street signing ceremony that renamed a street in the Coachlight Square neighborhood to honor him. The street of 55th Terrace between Rinker Road and Wallace Avenue is now known as Honorary Clifton J. Scott Place.

Scott was killed in the line of duty by a drunk driver on Sept. 21, 2012 while providing support services to law enforcement at a multiple vehicle crash site along I-70 in Independence, Mo.

The Coachlight Square Neighborhood Association and organizer Theresa Thompson spearheaded the hour long event which began with his favorite song "September" by Earth, Wind and Fire. Kansas City minister Rev. Charles Briscoe led the group in prayer which was followed by featured speakers from MoDOT, **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)** and the Independence Fire Department, as well as family members and friends.

Kansas City Assistant District Engineer, Chris Redline, spoke of Clifton's dedication and expressed hope that the street signs will help remind others not to make bad decisions when it comes to drinking and driving.

Scott's sister, Xavier Estelle, called her little brother by his nickname, "Fat Daddy," and said his sudden death changed her family's life forever as she tearfully spoke of how much she missed him and thought about him every day.

Avis Lowe, a representative of MADD, simply stated "This has to stop" speaking of the senseless killing of innocent people by those who choose to drink and drive.

Capt. Aaron McNabb, of the Independence Fire Department, talked about how helpful Clifton was during the five years he worked with him on accident scenes."He was one of the nicest people you'd hope to meet," he said. McNabb was on scene the night Clifton was killed and said he struggles with it every day.

Clifton's former fiancée fought through her tears as she remembered the morning of the incident. Other co-workers and neighbors shared stories and special times spent with Scott during the emotional ceremony.

The event closed with Clifton's sister, Xavier Estelle and Chris Redline unveiling the street signs to reveal the new sign bearing Scott's name.

Later this year, a stretch of I-70 between Noland Road and



Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline helps unveil the memorial sign.

Lee's Summit Road will be named the Clifton J. Scott Memorial Highway. Kansas City District employees are jointly raising or donating funds toward the \$2,400 needed for the two signs.

For further coverage of this event, read articles in the [Kansas City Star](#), [Fox 4 News](#) and [KMBC 9 News](#).



Kansas City media representatives were on hand to cover the sign unveiling. Clifton's story continues to resonate within the community.

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**Comments & Suggestions**

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at [Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov).

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## St. James Project Office Hosts Open House

Staff at the St. James Project Office offered area residents, elected officials and business leaders a chance to get an up-close look at its new facility located at 17855 Route 8 at an open house held Tuesday.

Barrel Bob was on hand to greet visitors to the office, and attendees had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Barrel Bob's younger self, Baby Bob.

In addition, several pieces of the equipment MoDOT uses to maintain the area's roads and bridges were on display, along with MoDOT staff to explain how the machinery works. A special thanks to Allen "Buzzy" Frank from Vienna maintenance and Lester "Pug" Henson from Rolla maintenance for staffing the motor grader and snow plow truck at the open house. Another thanks goes to Kyle Fischer and crew at Hallsville maintenance for escorting Barrel Bob to the event.

"We're excited to be a part of the St. James community and a partner in the Meramec Region," said Area Engineer Preston Kramer. "The open house gave us a chance to introduce ourselves to the area and to get to know the customers we serve a little better."

The project office had originally been located in Rolla, but was moved to St. James in February as part of MoDOT's efforts to consolidate its facilities.



Senior Construction Inspector Dennis Brady and Resident Engineer Dennis Krenning take the Copelands of St. James on a tour of the new St. James Project Office.



Rolla Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Lester "Pug" Henson and Vienna Maintenance Supervisor Allen "Buzzy" Frank show off one of the district's newer snow plow trucks at an open house held at the new St. James Project Office on June 25.

"The Rolla office was in need of a number of upgrades, whereas the St. James maintenance facility, which we had vacated, was relatively new," Kramer said. "Given the close proximity of the two locations, it made more sense to renovate the St. James facility."

The Rolla office is on the market to be sold.

## Going Above and Beyond

Jefferson City Senior Maintenance Worker Richard Murray recently went the extra



mile to help reunite a customer with his lost property. While working earlier this month along Route 50 near Taos with fellow crew member Leon Maasen, Richard came across a sack of baseball gloves near the roadway.

“When we looked inside the sack, we found that the gloves belonged to Mr. Jack Morris,” said Murray. “At that point we had a name and address, but no phone number. We made contact with one of his neighbors, who relayed the message about what we found. Within a short amount of time, we reunited Mr. Morris with his property.”

Morris called the Central District office to thank Richard for his efforts to return the lost items. Thanks for providing outstanding customer service, Richard!



**Jefferson City Senior  
Maintenance Worker Richard  
Murray**

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## Rain Men



**With the help of a Belle fire truck, Nathan Able, Belle's director of Public Works, helped MoDOT simulate a rain storm to determine the cause of a drainage problem on Route 89.**

The Central District and the Belle Fire Department recently worked together to create a simulated “rain storm” to test drainage along Route 89 in Belle.

A customer had voiced concerns about the drainage in that area. After reviewing the area, Meramec Area Engineer Preston Kramer determined it would need to be observed during a rain storm to test some theories about what was causing the drainage problem. Kramer even drove to the site one day when a storm front was supposed to come through, but it failed to materialize.

That’s when the Belle Fire Department stepped in.

“One day when speaking about this issue with the Belle Director of Public Works, Nathan Able, who coincidentally is also a Belle Fire Department lieutenant, he offered to help me create a rain event with the use of one of the fire trucks that has a 2,000-gallon capacity,” Kramer said.

A few days later, a Belle City fire truck opened wide its water valves at the problem location and the underlying drainage problem was revealed.

“It just goes to show that even a casual conversation can trigger a local partnership that helps get things done for our customers,” said Kramer.

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## Ditch Duty

The Drake maintenance crew recently provided a significant amount of planning, customer contact and labor to solve some problems with the ditches along Route 100, east of Hermann.

Water erosion had caused deep ditches in this area to wander outside of highway right of way. The adjoining property owners, who are known to manicure MoDOT right of way along with their yards, were justifiably unhappy with what was going on with these ditches.

Drake Maintenance Supervisor Kenny Steinbeck worked with the property owners to get an understanding of what they wanted to see happen, as well as to explain to them what was within our power to do. The goal was to provide a ditch that



would not erode and meander over the long term, while also being attractive to make the adjoining property owners happy.

Drake maintenance crews came up with an effective, yet attractive, solution to fix eroding ditches on Route 100 near Hermann.

“If we filled the ditches back in with dirt or a similar material, the ditches would just erode again,” said Meramec Area Engineer Preston Kramer. “We’d need to refill them continually, which would not be an ideal solution.”

Instead, the ditches were reshaped, deepened and widened. They then were lined with rock to halt erosion and look nice – a solution that everyone could live with.

## District Happenings



Motorists in the Osage Beach area are noticing new highway signs going up along Route 54 through Osage Beach. The new signs designate the Osage Beach Parkway as Business 54. The signs are being erected at the request of the City of Osage Beach, which recently changed the name of the parkway to Osage Beach Parkway/Business 54. The signs will dually designate the stretch of Osage Beach Parkway that is home to numerous Lake-area businesses, restaurants, shops and other destinations as both Osage Beach Parkway and Business 54. The name change and the signs are meant to help motorists more readily recognize the parkway as the Osage Beach business district.



The On the Move van continues its trek across the Central District. Here it pays a visit to city officials in Salem.

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### Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at [Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov).

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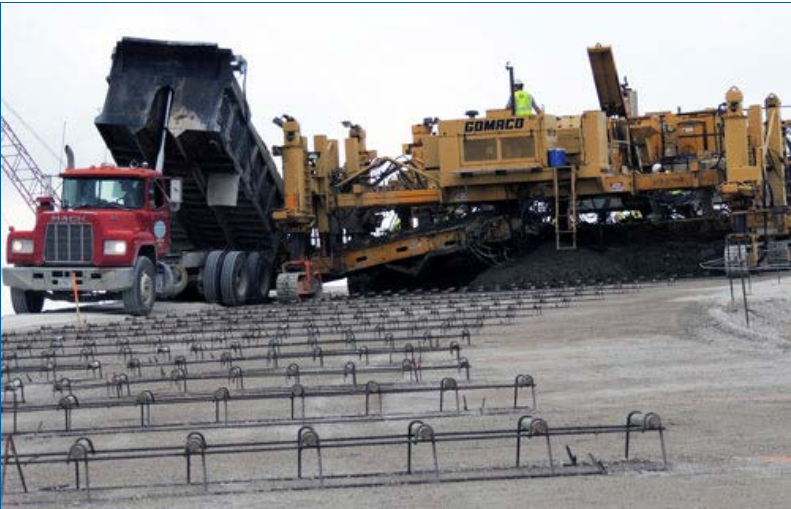
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## MoDOT Tests New Process for Missouri Interchange Ramp

by Andrew Gates

MoDOT St. Louis is testing a new process during construction of one of the ramps on the Missouri Interchange between I-70 and the new Mississippi River Bridge. The ramp will lead from Cass Avenue in St. Louis City to the new bridge.

This new process uses recycled concrete to replace some of the aggregate in the concrete mix used during paving. This process was suggested by the contractor and approved by engineers in MoDOT's materials section. Concrete is normally made up of cement, some form of aggregate (such as rock and sand), water and various additives depending on temperature and other conditions.



Crews place concrete on a new ramp connecting the new Mississippi River Bridge to downtown St. Louis.

In the past, contractors have used recycled concrete to form the base for new concrete. This is the first time recycled concrete has been used as aggregate in a state highway project, said Randy Hitt, deputy project director for the new Mississippi River Bridge project.

The contractor crushed the old concrete into about ¾ inch pieces and added it to various mixes. The contractor tried several different mixes of concrete and regular aggregate on the ramp, including one mix where all the aggregate was recycled concrete, said Hitt.

“MoDOT and our research partners at the University of Missouri Rolla will continue to monitor the performance of the concrete on this ramp. Using recycled concrete in the mix will not only be environmentally friendly, but may also save contractors some of the costs of trucking in aggregate for future projects,” said Hitt.

The concrete placed and looked just like concrete with regular aggregate. In addition, the test concrete has met all the strength criteria for similar concrete used on ramps.

## Construction Inspector Educates Students on Engineering Industry

photos by Shaunda White





**Betherny Williams, senior construction inspector for the New Mississippi River Bridge, recently spoke to high school students about the field of engineering at the 2013 COMTO Scholarship Awards banquet. For more information on COMTO, visit [www.comto.org](http://www.comto.org)**

## Close to the Finish Line for On the Move

*photo by Kara Price*

Two weeks are left to continue surveying Missouri citizens about the future of transportation. The St. Louis District strongly encourages employees to help discuss Missouri's future of transportation with local Missourians. If you are interested in working these events, please contact Marie Elliott, MoDOT Community Relations Manager, at 314-453-1807 or [yvonne.elliott@modot.mo.gov](mailto:yvonne.elliott@modot.mo.gov).

- Friday, June 21, Katy Trail, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Saturday, June 22, North County Festival, 4 p.m.- 9 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 25, Kirkwood Train Station, 9-10 a.m and 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 26, Kirkwood Train Station, 9 -10 a.m. and 4-5 p.m.
- Thursday, June 27, Sunset on Riverfront in Washington, MO, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Saturday, June 29, Ferguson Farmers Market, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Saturday, June 29, Pacific Car Show, 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Sunday, June 30, South City Preparatory Academy, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



**Cindy Coleman, senior right of way specialist, encourages visitors at the annual Strawberry Festival in Jefferson County to fill out On the Move surveys. She explained how MoDOT wants to get Missourians' feedback on transportation needs throughout the state.**

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## Southwest District

SW District at Work



**PAVING IN BENTON COUNTY:** Checking lane width on a resurfacing project on Route 65 north of Warsaw is Clinton Senior Construction Inspector Steve Markham. (Photo by Bob Edwards)



**PREPARING FOR RESURFACING LATER IN SUMMER:** Springfield Senior Construction Inspector Bret Taylor marks a location for a full-depth pavement repair on Kearney Street (Route 744) in Springfield. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

## New Zora/Main Interchange in Joplin Seen as Gateway to Development

by Bob Edwards

A new interchange at Zora and Main Streets in Joplin, built in partnership between MoDOT's Southwest district and the City of Joplin, is expected to open the way to development on the city's northwest side.

The interchange was opened to traffic on June 13, with a ribbon-cutting the next day by the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Joplin.

The project was initiated by the City of Joplin through its capital improvements sales tax approved by voters in 2004. Project construction cost was \$10 million, with MoDOT paying \$1 million, and the city paying \$3.2 million. Federal funding of \$5.8 million was secured for the city by former U.S. Sen. Jim Talent. MoDOT did the right-of-way appraisal and negotiation.



Citizens celebrate the new intersection.

With this new interchange, traffic moving north and south on Main Street (Route 43) will now access Zora Street via on- and off-ramps. Two traffic signals along Main Street - one at Zora Street and one at Veterans Way - were removed.

"Traffic will flow better and drivers will be safer because of the Zora and Main interchange," MoDOT Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz said. "We at MoDOT were glad to partner with the City of Joplin on the project. We have a long history of collaboration, and we are committed to continuing that relationship on future projects."

Joplin Mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean said, "This project demonstrates how agencies working together can make a difference to improve our community."

The interchange project included a bridge over the railroad tracks west of Main Street. The two bridges together link two previously disconnected sections of Zora Street.

This Zora Street connection is the first step toward linking to a proposed West Bypass following portions of Jasper County Road 290.

Colbert-Kean described the east-west connection along Zora Street as "a gateway to the west that will provide opportunities for continued growth in this area."

Corridors to the west of the Zora and Main interchange are being developed by the Joplin Special Road District and Jasper County to provide connection to North Schifferdecker Avenue.

Lehman Construction of California, Mo., was the prime contractor on the project.

## Customers Say Thanks for Quick Service

Southwest District workers received "Atta Girls" and "Atta Boys" in the past week, with customers recognizing the personal touch that generates outstanding customer service.

Here is a summary of what customers said:

### Avoiding a bureaucratic approach:

A lengthy email from a Springfield woman praised every MoDOT employee who played a role in a positive response to her issue. A car running off the road hit a MoDOT fence and also damaged her adjacent fence along the James River Freeway (Route 60). The driver's insurance company was hesitating to pay the claim, she said, because it was concerned that the damaged MoDOT fence and sign would push the customer's fence repair cost beyond the insured's property damage limit.

In her email, the woman cited "exemplary customer service and excellent people skills" provided by several MoDOT employees who addressed the issue and allayed her concern about the costs involved.

The woman said when she called MoDOT, her concern was listened to and referred properly by Senior Customer Service Representative Becky Walsh and then was processed quickly by Senior Risk Management Technician Jodie Payne. Complimented for their work on the MoDOT fence and sign were Springfield Maintenance Crew Leaders Matt Ilgenfritz, Stan Jovich and Bob Lawrence.

"I was energized by this experience because I have been seeking a state position for the past three months after making the decision to change career direction to try to make a difference serving the citizens of Missouri," the woman wrote.

Until her dealings with MoDOT, she said, "I believed that the bureaucratic mind set would be a bitter pill I would have to swallow in order to accomplish this personal goal. This interaction with your organization helped me believe that Missouri state agencies are not all fit to that archaic model.

"I thank you ... for establishing an organization that is capable of not only accomplishing its mission and function but of contributing the people and communication skills that make the world 'feel better' to those citizens you serve."

### Correcting a visibility issue:

A Benton County woman said MoDOT tractors had mowed along Route T west and south of Lincoln, but tall weeds remaining near the intersection of Routes T and C made visibility difficult. She also had questions about when a bridge project on Route T would begin.

After receiving the concern, Warsaw maintenance went out the same day and cut a wider swath on the corner to ensure good visibility.

And Customer Relations sent along information on the approximate time when the bridge work would begin and assured the customer that when the schedule is set news releases would go out ahead of time to alert everyone when the bridge would be closed for repairs.

"Thank you so much for your quick response!" she wrote in an email.

### A friendly phone call:

A caller from Benton County expressed his gratitude for a resurfacing project on Route 7 between Warsaw and Tightwad



that includes adding shoulders and rumble stripes.

He acknowledged that he had complained in the past about the need for improvements, so he felt he should call back to say thank you for the work.

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at [Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov).

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## Southeast District

### On the Move Momentum in SE Missouri



District Engineer Mark Shelton speaks to members of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce about Missouri's transportation future and requests input.

The On the Move mobile tour is wrapping up, but the Southeast District's efforts are not losing any momentum. In addition to receiving nearly 500 comments from the Southeast District's western counties in June, District Engineer Mark Shelton spoke with business leaders at a recent Farmington Chamber of Commerce meeting.

"Themes are definitely developing in the comments we are receiving," said Shelton. "While many individuals have specific projects that they would like to see in their region, most of these are tied to safety improvements."

Shelton added individuals across the district have also expressed that they do not want to see the current system decline and value multimodal options. The business leaders in Farmington were very in tune to the economic benefits transportation improvements provide.

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce formed the Emerging Issues Committee, comprised of member business representatives, to review issues that are of importance to the success of the business community, such as transportation.

"We are very appreciative that business leaders in our region are coming together as part of this committee to discuss matters that affect our businesses and communities," said Doug McDermott, president/CEO of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce.

"The Emerging Issues Committee meeting was the perfect venue to hear from Mark about the current state of MoDOT and to communicate to him those projects at the top of our wish list to continually improve the economy and quality of life in the Farmington region," said McDermott.

Missourians wishing to provide input for the state's 20-year transportation plan may also submit a project suggestion form at [www.missourionthefarmingtonmove.org/share-your-thoughts/project-suggestion-form/](http://www.missourionthefarmingtonmove.org/share-your-thoughts/project-suggestion-form/).

### Second SE District Auction to be Held

On the heels of the June auction in Willow Springs, the Southeast District is planning to hold a second auction in Sikeston on Saturday, Aug. 3.

"The Willow Springs auction was a success, with over 100 people in attendance," said General Services Manager Jacky Traw. "The auction generated over \$100,000."

Traw explained funds raised through the auction will be put back into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program's budget for use on roadway improvements.

Southeast District employees who have items in their work areas that they wish to include in the auction can bring them to the Sikeston garage by



July 12.

For more information, please contact Traw at (573) 472-5215 or via email at [jacky.traw@modot.mo.gov](mailto:jacky.traw@modot.mo.gov).

During the auction held in June, the Southeast District generated over \$100,000 for roadway projects.

**SE Coalition for Roadway Safety's Award-Winning PSA**

The Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety's public service announcement "They're Talking" recently won an award for the Best Medium Market TV Single Commercial.

The award was received from the Illinois Broadcasters Association.

To view the public service announcement, please visit <http://youtu.be/g79dBXe6svs> or click the video link below.



To view additional public service announcements from the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety, please visit [www.youtube.com / SoutheastCoalition](http://www.youtube.com/SoutheastCoalition).

**Project Manager Tim Richmond Retires**

After years of dedicated service, Project Manager Tim Richmond retired this June.



Project Manager Tim Richmond (left) and District Engineer Mark Shelton.



SE District employees gather to honor Richmond's years of dedicated service.

**For more info**

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**Comments & Suggestions**

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